

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. A clean copy of the pending claims as amended are attached for the convenience of the Examiner.

Claim 11 is objected to for containing two periods in the claim. Appropriate correction has been made to claim 11.

In responding to the Examiner's prior art rejections, Applicant here only justifies the patentability of the independent claims (1, 9, 13 and 14). As the Examiner will appreciate, should these independent claims be patentable over the prior art, narrower dependent claims would also necessarily be patentable. Accordingly, Applicant does not separately discuss the patentability of the dependent claims, although it reserves the right to do so at a later time if necessary.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gifford et al. (U.S. Patent 6,549,612) in view of Slutsman et al. (U.S. Patent 6,604,129)

Before discussing the Examiner's bases for rejection, Applicant first summarizes the basic contents of the references.

Gifford et al. disclose a method and system that utilizes an active interface embedded in an e-mail notification to control delivery of a non-literal, single media or multimedia message to a subscriber. By interacting with the interface rather than the message itself, the actual message can remain stored on the server and is only retrieved when the subscriber desires to view or listen to it. The interface also allows a subscriber to call, fax or perform other functions directly from the interface within the e-mail.

Slutsman et al. disclose a method and apparatus for a conference call mediation service that allows for the scheduling of multi-participant conferences over the Internet. A special Internet server acts as a mediator by conducting one or more rounds of pre-

conference scheduling negotiations among potential participants.

As the Examiner will appreciate, an obviousness rejection is only appropriate when the combined references together disclose all of the limitations of the claims. *See* MPEP § 2143.03. Here, Applicant submits that even when combined, Gifford et al. and Slutsman et al. do not disclose Applicant's limitation recited in claims 1, 9 and 13:

delivering the unique URL from the subscriber to each of the plurality of participants.

Hence, even together these references are insufficient to render Applicant's claims obvious.

The Examiner purports to find this limitation in Gifford et al. (col. 6, ll 24-37; col. 14, ll 18-65). However, column 6, lines 24-37 of Gifford et al. only disclose a server that sends an e-mail to a subscriber, wherein the e-mail contains a URL that gives the subscriber an ability to interact with server side communication functions to perform conference calling. This section only teaches communication between a subscriber *and a server* which eventually sets up conference calling. This section does not teach or suggest delivering a URL from a subscriber to each of the plurality of conference participants as claimed herein.

With regard to the teaching in column 14, lines 18-65 of Gifford et al., Applicant submits that it is irrelevant to the recited limitation. Here Gifford et al. only teach how to notify a subscriber after a caller has left a message on the server. This section does not teach or suggest anything related to setting up conference calling, let alone teach or suggest delivering a URL from a subscriber to each of the plurality of conference participants as claimed herein.

In short, the above-recited limitation of Applicant's claims is not met by either Gifford et al. or Slutsman et al. Combining the teaching of the cited references does not render Applicant's claims obvious because the cited references together fail to disclose all of the limitations of the claims. *See* MPEP § 2143.03. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Turning to claim 14, Applicant submits that even when combined, Gifford et al. and

Slutsman et al. do not disclose Applicant's recited limitation:

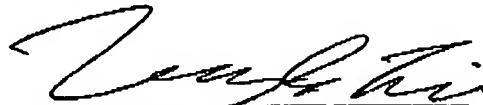
activating a conference in the conferencing system when the URL of a subscriber accesses the web server of the conferencing system over the Internet from a web browser of the aforesaid subscriber or of a participant to the conference

The Examiner purports to find this limitation in Slutsman et al., column 27-67 (Examiner's typographical error). Applicant respectfully traverses. Applicant submits that Slutsman et al. only teach a method of using a server to conduct pre-conference scheduling negotiations among potential participants. Slutsman et al. do not provide disclosure on how to set up a conference that entails communication among a plurality of subscribers. Specifically, Slutsman et al. only teach using a server to send and receive conference information (e.g. date, time, conference agenda, etc.) to and from potential conference participants. (See abstract and Figure 1). Thus, Slutsman et al. do not teach or suggest a method of providing conference for a plurality of subscribers comprising the step of activating a conference when the URL of a subscriber accesses the web server of the conferencing system over the Internet from a web browser of the aforesaid subscriber or of a participant to the conference as claimed herein.

Applicant submits that the above-recited limitation of Applicant's claim 14 is not met by either Gifford et al. or Slutsman et al., and the cited references together fail to disclose all of the limitations of the claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that rejection of claims 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are allowable, and requests that a Notice of Allowance Issue for these claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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A Clean Copy of The Pending Claims As Amended

1. (original) A method for providing a conference for a subscriber and a plurality of participants at a set time using a conferencing system in a telecommunication system, the telecommunication system incorporating an Internet, the method comprising:
 - assigning in a web server of the conferencing system a unique URL for the conference of the subscriber;
 - providing the unique URL through the Internet to a web browser of the subscriber;
 - delivering the unique URL and the set time through the Internet from the web browser of the subscriber to each of the plurality of participants, the subscriber and the plurality of participants comprising end-users in the conference;
 - each of the end-users clicking on the delivered URL at the set time to access the web server of the conferencing system through the Internet;
 - each of the end-users providing endpoint identification information corresponding to an endpoint to the accessed web page;
 - connecting each endpoint of the end-users to the conference in the conferencing system through the telecommunications system in response to the provided endpoint identification information.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the unique URL occurs by emailing the unique URL through the Internet to the subscriber.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the unique URL comprises:
 - placing the unique URL on a web page of the web server;
 - copying of the placed URL by the subscriber from the web page of the web server.

4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein delivering comprises emailing the unique URL through the Internet to the web browser of each of the plurality of participants.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein delivering comprises:
placing the unique URL on a web page of the subscriber;
copying of the placed URL by the participants from the web page of the subscriber.
6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the unique URL is a graphical icon.
7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the endpoint is a telephone and wherein the endpoint information is a telephone number for the telephone.
8. (original) The method of claim 7 wherein connecting comprises:
calling the telephone for the telephone number provided in the endpoint identification information;
adding the telephone to the conference when it goes off-hook.
9. (original) A method for providing a conference for a subscriber and a plurality of participants using a conferencing system in a telecommunication system, the telecommunication system incorporating an Internet, the method comprising:
assigning in a database of a web server of the conferencing system a unique URL for the conference of the subscriber;
providing the unique URL through the Internet to a web browser of the subscriber;
delivering the unique URL from the subscriber to each of the plurality of participants, the subscriber and the plurality of participants comprising end-users in the conference;
activating the conference in the conferencing system when the delivered

URLs are clicked on by the end-users.

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein delivering comprises emailing the unique URL through the Internet to the web browser of each of the plurality of participants.
11. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein delivery comprises:
 - placing the unique URL on a web page that could be anywhere, owned and operated by anyone;
 - copying of the placed URL by the participants from the web page of the subscriber.
12. (original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
 - each of the end-users clicking on the delivered URL at the set time to access the web server of the conferencing system through the Internet;
 - each of the end-users providing endpoint identification information corresponding to an endpoint to the accessed web page;
 - connecting each endpoint of the end-users to the conference in the conferencing system through the telecommunications system in response to the provided endpoint identification information.
13. (original) A method for providing a conference for a subscriber and a plurality of participants at a set time using a conferencing system in a telecommunication system, the telecommunication system implemented with an Internet, the method comprising:
 - assigning in a web server of the conferencing system a unique URL for the conference of the subscriber;
 - providing the unique URL through the Internet to a web browser of the subscriber;
 - delivering the unique URL and the set time through the Internet from the web browser of the subscriber to each of the plurality of participants, the

- subscriber and the plurality of participants comprising end-users in the conference;
- an end-user clicking on the delivered URL at the set time to access the web server of the conferencing system through the Internet;
- the end-user providing a telephone number corresponding to a telephone to the accessed web page;
- calling the telephone from the conferencing system through the telecommunications system in response to providing the telephone number;
- connecting the end-user to the conference when the called telephone goes off-hook.
14. (original) A method for providing conferences in a telecommunication system for a plurality of subscriber, the method comprising:
- providing a plurality of URLs in a web server at a conferencing system in the telecommunication system;
- assigning in the web server at least one of the plurality of URLs to each of said plurality of subscribers;
- activating a conference in the conferencing system when the URL of a subscriber accesses the web server of the conferencing system over the Internet from a web browser of the aforesaid subscriber or of a participant to the conference.
15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein activating comprises:
- receiving endpoint information from the subscriber and from each participant accessing the URL of the subscriber;
- connecting each endpoint for each received endpoint information to the conference.
16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein an endpoint is a telephone and the

endpoint information is a telephone number for the telephone.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein connecting comprises calling the telephone number.
18. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein at least one URL has an associated icon.